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WESTERN WOOL-GROWING

SHEEP-WALKS OF THE PASTORAL PLAIN.

A Favored Region—Abundant and Nutritious Grasses—The Huerfano, Bush, Buffalo and Gramas—Pure Water and a Healthful Climate—Winter Grazing, Feeding and Shelter—Points for Pastoral People—Experience of a Successful Sheep Man—Letter from a Trans-Mississippi Pioneer.

[Recently a very brief paragraph appeared in the REPUBLICAN, to the effect that Mr. M. Stocking, a wool-grower of Saunders county, Nebraska, had clipped from sixteen hundred sheep

[illegible]

graze, Nelskin, Johnson, Otse, Cass, Lancaster, and other sections of the country. The herds of horses and cattle are numerous, and the herds of Butler and Shaw counties. Within this area—geologically described as the "Blue formation"—the prevailing grass is the well-known bluegrass, which is the staple of the grazing starting late (about the last of May), and killed by the first hard frosts of autumn, season about October 15. In the principal grass cut for hay, and during the winter, the cattle feed on hay, and during the summer on the bluegrass. To any other, internixed with this variety it is to be found the smaller, harder and more lasting grasses, such as the noted bunch, grama-grass, and several other species of little importance.

Between the blue river and the meridian of the County of Nevada the bluegrass is the bunch, grama and buffaloe grass have become more abundant, (say one half west of the first grass meridian), and here from a self-cured grass, the bluegrass is not so abundant, but only subsist, but fatten without other fodder; yet it will not do to depend wholly upon the grass.

West of the meridian of Kearney, and stretching up to the mountains, is to be found the grass, "Pastoral Plains" of the country, upon which the cattle and horses graze all the year round, with only the occasional storms or such a winter as that of '71 and '72. Much of this valuable plain lies within the limits of the State of Nevada, and the finest sheep-walks to be found in any country. Now is this all. The numerous rapid creeks which there abound will not only water the cattle, but furnish the stock with water to manufacture and utilize their fleece; thus enabling the wool-grower and manufacturer of wools to come down side in line of the healthiest climate of the country.

That the obstacles to a successful sheep bandery are not insurmountable is proven by the fact that within the past few years the sheep to this country Nebraska has increased from a known to fame, despised as "a desert," and; that there has been no sign of civilization; the nearest

obtaining supplies nearer than fifty miles; and thus for a period of three years. In 1906 the first wave of immigration began to roll towards and stop around the river.

Again, for the past five years I have been wholly unaccustomed for performing manual labor, and sometimes not even able to see our way through the brush. I have had to rely for help have kept them together, and even made some headway.

My health is poor, and still is a mixed business; therefore it might be impossible for the answers to be strictly accurate in every item.

INTERVIEWING PERSONS ANSWERED.

1. The number of men, women, and children, and will average three fourths of a ton. Some are full, some only one-half bush.

2. The proportion of ewes is about one third.

3. The "buck and sheller" has been very rough. Indeed, "Fur" has been very rough. The sheep is steep bank in front, open at each end, and hay root, is our best, and is reserved for breeding. The sheep is very rough. The sheep is very rough and most of the lambs had only the one eye. The hay-rick for shelter. The wethers had the less side of a board fence and the further protection. The sheep is very rough. The sheep is very rough. All had free access to pure running water. They were kept in the yards from the middle of April to the middle of May—seven months—four months in the yard. The sheep food consist of bluestem hay, wheat, oats and barley straw, and shelled corn at the rate of one bushel to the hundred. At least such was the order.

4. The "twenty cost per head of keeping" averages about 60 cents—last year 81 cents.

5. The "cost per head of sheep" is about 25 cents. (This evidently means 25 per cent upon the whole flock, one third only of which, it will be recalled, are ewes.—Con.)

6. The "cost per head of sheep" is about 25 cents. The sheep have ranged from 10 to 25 cents. About half the clips sold here; the others sold in Boston.

7. The "cost per head of sheep originally" is about 25 cents.

"Where bought?" In Jackson county, Minn. and Wyoming and Livingston counties, N. Y.

8. Our range is very wholly upon the public lands, now wholly upon our own lands; but the grasses are the same—native. We have no artificial grasses, but native grass growing, but not in sufficient quantity to feed or pasture. All varieties do well so far.

9. "How many sheep to the acre?" About one hundred average prairie grass in this section. To stock much heavier would not be the best use of the grass. The bunch and grama grasses appear to improve under mowing.

10. "What is the usual average mortality from what causes?" The first year about twelve per cent., last year two and a half per cent., and for the last three years about one percent. Losses from so long a drive in the worst possible weather; lack of proper shelter; lack of grain for the winter; wolves, wildcats, drowning; and, lastly, the loss of lambs by disease. I am sorry I cannot help that understands sheep, or wishes to see.

11. Since 1860 sheep have been in such small numbers that they could not be counted readily at all; at all they were worth about \$1.00 each. For best hocks about \$100 per head could now be obtained for a limited number.

12. "Do you grow alfalfa directly from the seed?" Yes, we grow alfalfa directly from the seed-plant, stacked about six weeks and each load soaked. The next in stack is about ready to cut. Over during the last three years we have raised about 100 tons.

Shearing, tying wool, and board cost about ten cents per head.

Respectfully, yours,
MORRIS BROCKING.

The Reading Eagle rejoices over the defeat of Hon. Wm. M. Hamlin for the Senatorial nomination by the Schrieffer county Democratic Convention, held at Reading, Pa., on Monday evening and Tuesday morning last. Mr. Hamlin's rise and immortality as Harbinger, "with being the first man to make a fortune out of nothing," connected with all the disgraced jobbers' and speculators' who have preyed upon the honest Democratic millions, has done more to

in fact a leader—this, coming from the organ of the Berks county Democracy, is rather hard on William—a very unkind cut. What is the matter with the Eagle?—Harrisburg Telegraph.